

#E1-688
RA

February 24, 2004

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-001



Attention: Rini Ghosh

Re: Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

I am writing in response to the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

My name is Velda Jarrell, I am a sixty eight year old widow and have lived on this property since 1984. I am a retired assistant bookkeeper/credit investigator, and, since my husband passed away (1999) I keep a few cattle. This is my home and I live out here mainly because of my health, I have asthma and chronic lung problems and I have never smoked. The air is very clean out here as we have no industry to speak of, just farming and ranching. My home is approximately 3/4ths. of a mile from this proposed quarry and will be fully visible from my house.

My concern is with both the proposed railroad, which is of course a part of the proposed quarry, and the impact it will have on both the environment and the history of this area. The vibrations of trains and the terrible blasting will, I believe affect all wild life including all the birds that migrate across this area each spring and fall. The quality of the air will be detrimental to both humans and animals and I do not see why anyone would want to raise children in this proposed environment. I think what has shocked me the most is the fact that a Quarry can even be considered in this area, due to the close proximity of a fault which affects the Edwards Aquifer, our main water source. I recently had to have a pump replaced in my well and I was told that they hit water at one hundred and fifty feet and as this proposed quarry is close to me, surely the water from the Edwards Aquifer is just as close to the surface.

The history that surrounds this area is of Native American artifacts being found in the areas where a proposed railroad would go through. Also many historic properties that were built by German settlers and their descendants still live in the area.

I sincerely hope that all this will be taken into consideration and I believe that Vulcan's proposed quarry and SGR rail line, regardless of where the railroad is constructed, are connected actions, and should be studied in the same Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,


Velda J. Jarrell

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Hondo, Texas 78861